CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2015 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton

INTRODUCTION

As we approach forty vintages of Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, there are certain values that draw together a harmony from those pioneering early wines to the dynamic, sought-after bottles we produce today. The valley has matured and we've endeavored to improve our offerings from the systematic replanting of our Estate vineyard, to modernizing the cellar, to becoming an industry leader in sustainability. All of these individual facets come together under the auspices of tradition and history to create delicious, age-worthy wines year after year.

VINTAGE WEATHER

A relatively warm winter set the stage for another year of drought in California. Budbreak occurred early in Calistoga, increasing the risk for vine-damaging frost, but our concerns were allayed as spring proved to be mild and uneventful. As June and July arrived, the weather remained temperate providing additional hang-time for flavor maturity and color development in the fruit. As is usually the case, the light crop turned out to be of excellent quality.

NOSE

It doesn't take much time in the glass to reveal the ripeness of the vintage. Dried cherries, baking spices, and vanilla intermingle with softer notes of espresso bean, pipe tobacco, and lavender.

PALATE

The 2015 steers toward dark fruit with plenty of blackberry jam and plums slowly yielding to intense, vibrant tannins and bright acid. A touch of smoke punctuates the midpalate revealing anise and cocoa. Within a few moments rhubarb appears as do dried ginger and black pepper. Additional ageing time is undoubtedly necessary to reveal the potential of this wine.

FINISH

The finish ties both the nose and palate together with fresh raspberries, a subtle hint of mint, and incredible freshness.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES
September 13 – October 2

ALCOHOL
14.1%

BLEND
97% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Cabernet Franc
1% Petit Verdot

BARREL AGING
22 months, 100% French, 40% new

BOTTLING DATE
August 2017

RELEASE DATE
Spring 2019

WINEMAKER
Matt Crafton

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